

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

Vol. 4, Number 5

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May 2022

Activities and Upcoming Events (Details in newsletter)

Events (Fees Apply)

- **Homestead Choir (Tentative)** SAT, June 17, 2022
- **Oktoberfest** SUN, September 4, 2022

Music Groups (Membership Not Required)

- Weekly sessions for all music groups: men's a cappella quartet, ukuleles, recorders, bluegrass, and B-flat instruments
- Mixed chorus (Weekly beginning July—Tentative)

Daily Activities (Membership Required)

- Pickleball (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym 7AM–4PM
- Multi-Media Library 7AM–4PM
- Golf Simulator (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Ping-Pong 7AM–NOON (table closed on Wednesdays)

Other Daily Activities (Membership Not Required)

- Walking Club, 7AM

Weekly Activities (Membership Required)

- TUE 1.30PM - Contract Bridge (Join WhatsApp List)
- THU, 1.30PM - Beginning/Advanced Contract Bridge Class
- SAT, 1PM Poker - 1PM SAT (Join WhatsApp List)
- SUN, 10:30PM - Sunday Cinema

*Vientos Bajos is a private activities center. Free membership for general activities and facility use is extended to owners and tenants of Jardin La Torre/Vientos Bajos. Membership, allowing entrance to all **activities**, is available for 10k CRC/month per person for those not owning or renting from the facility. The price of all **events** is based on our cost and applies to owners and tenants of JLT/VB as well as VB general members. The use of the golf simulator requires an additional membership fee and monthly dues for those not living at JLT/VB.*

Until further notice, attendance at all VB events requires a Covid virus vaccination record reflecting full immunization. If you're already on our list as having had the vaccinations, you don't need to bring your shot card.

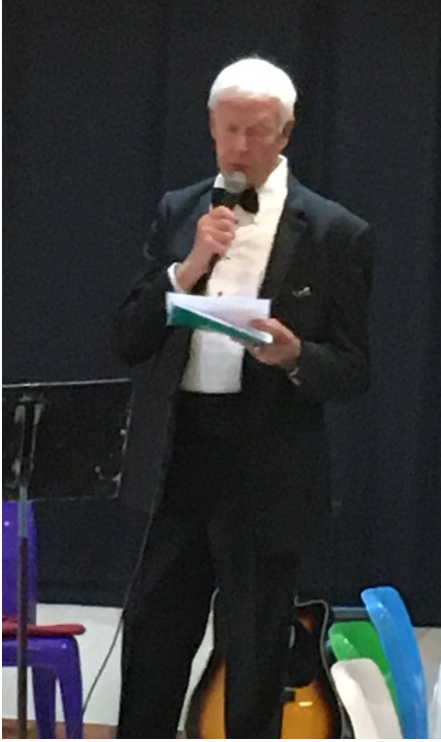
THANK YOU!! On March 20, some very kind and generous friends presented John Buford with a wonderful gift that now is at the entrance of the Vientos Bajos Activities Room. As you enter from the west end, you won't be able to miss Frick and Frack, our two new macaws, perched on a branch to welcome you. Again, thank you so much to all who provided this phenomenal gift for all to share!



Earth Day Celebration. On Sunday, April 24, Vientos Bajos celebrated Earth Day with many talented individuals and groups taking the stage to entertain those in the audience. With Milt Peterson presiding as MC, the show included our recorder ensemble, B-flat ensemble, men's a cappella quartet, the VB bluegrass ensemble, and

ended with a singalong led by our own ukulele band, the Ukes of Hazard. Janice Summers was a stand-out with her storytelling. A special thank you goes to those who helped set up, clean up, and break down, with special mention to Ana Thill, Caryl Buford, Laura and Janine Mitchell, and Janet Kitka. Thank you to all who made the day special.





MUSIC GROUPS

All activities take place at Vientos Bajos. With all groups having done an exceptional job of presentation at the Earth Day Celebration, all groups are again open as we begin work and new music for Oktoberfest, planned for Sunday, September 4.

General information: We provide sheet music for all groups, and instruments for many. If you're interested in any of our groups, please contact us so we can put you on the special contact list. There is no charge to participate in any of the instrumental groups. See the individual write-ups for the various groups below to see if you'd like to join us. All groups meet on Wednesdays, but there is a possibility of some Thursday groups. See note in the Weekly Activities section.

Ukulele Band, 10:00AM, WED

No experience required. This is a fun, beginning music group. You do not need a music background to participate. A basic knowledge of ukulele or guitar chords is helpful, but not required. This is a backup singalong group—we chord while our audience joins us for singalong songs. If you want to learn a musical instrument and spend some time socializing, this is your opportunity. We have an extra ukulele or two available if you don't have your own instrument.



Bluegrass Band, 1:30PM WED

Experience required. Our bluegrass band began playing together in 2021. We are a jam session but provide chord charts. We develop sets to play for various events. If you play any bluegrass instrument and can read chord charts, you're invited to join us. Please contact us if you're interested and let us know what instrument you'll be playing.



Recorder Ensemble, 2:30PM WED

Must read music. This group is for those who read music. Most of us were exposed to the recorder in the third or fourth grade. Even if you have never played the recorder, it's a fairly easy instrument to learn—if you read music. We currently have openings for all four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We can provide a soprano or alto recorder, but if you want to play a tenor or bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument—or notify us so we can find one for you. On a scale of zero to 5, the music we choose is probably 1.5 to 2.0 level.



B-flat instruments, 3:30PM WED



Must read music and have experience with a B-flat instrument. Trumpets, clarinets, oboes, trombones, bassoons, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. All musicians in the group should be able to read music and have experience with their instrument. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 3.0 (on a 0–5 scale) and we have sheet music for both bass and treble clef. We have an extra trumpet, trombone, and

baritone for your use. (See photo.) If you need a different instrument, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.

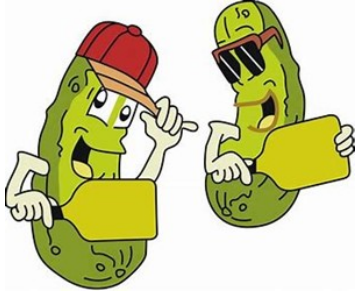
Mixed Chorus

If you feel you can carry a tune, we'd love to have you join us. Reading music is not required, but extremely helpful. No formal musical training is required—just bring your voice and we'll go from there. We'll be singing unison or two-part numbers, and to start, all



music will be beginning-easy level. We're looking for all ranges—sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. If you don't know which you are, we'll figure it out for you. Due to the coronavirus, mixed chorus was suspended in 2020. With most people now having their vaccinations, we are planning to restart mixed chorus in July. We will continue to test the waters concerning the virus status, so the start date is tentative. If you're interested, please let us know. We'll put you on the list and notify you when we start up.

DAILY ACTIVITIES



Pickleball: 3 sessions daily—8–10AM, 10:30AM–12:30PM, and 1:30–3:30PM

All signups via SignUp Genius limit play to two hours per signup time, and up to six players per signup time. All levels of players are welcome to sign up. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the SignUp Genius list.

Gym: 7AM–4PM

The gym is available for members and includes electronic as well as manual equipment.

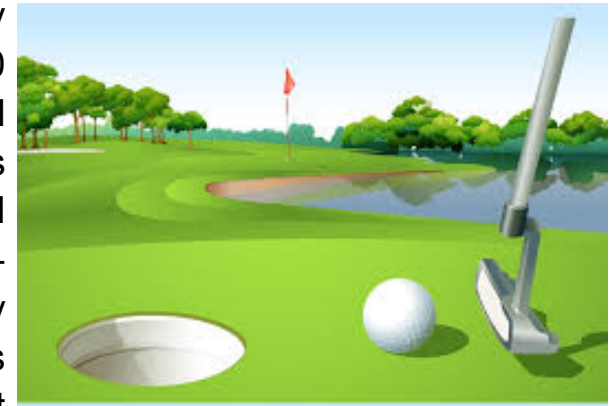


Library: 7AM–4PM

We open with a very big THANK YOU to Laura and Janine Mitchell, who have reorganized the library—a real necessity since we moved it from the second to the third floor where the books are now enjoying a dehumidified environment. We also thank all those who have contributed to the collection. In addition to books, DVDs, and CDs, we also have an assortment of picture puzzles for your use.

Golf Simulator: 7AM–4PM

Our golf simulator remains popular. We have recently added an additional 35 courses, giving us a total of 50 courses to play. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, will walk you through the use of the simulator. We have clubs available for all except men's LH. Al Sargent has allowed us to use his set of women's LH, so if you're a left-handed man willing to play with a club that's shorter by 1", you're welcome to use these. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set



you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact Rick, rickreimer49@gmail.com to schedule a time if you want to try it out or join the league, now forming. Regular use is for golf club members only.

Ping Pong: 7AM–Noon, except Wednesday



Activities Room, third floor, Vientos Bajos. **Reservations required** so we know we have enough players.

Walk: 7AM (Membership Not Required)

Meet at the front gate of Jardin La Torre Monday through Saturday or call or email to be placed on the roster for special, longer walks from different locations on Sunday.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Sundays

Sunday Cinema. A very big “thank you” to Mae Worth who has offered to restart Sunday Cinema on Sunday, May 8. General info: Cost is 2k CRC/person, free to VB members. Start time is 10:30AM. Reservations are required and attendance is limited to 25. Masks are required. Children under 18 are not permitted without a parent. Our May 8 movie is BELFAST, which was nominated for 7 Academy Awards, winning 1 (best original screenplay).

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja3PPOnJQ2k> Future titles will be announced on our Facebook page.

Mondays

No weekly groups or classes on Mondays.

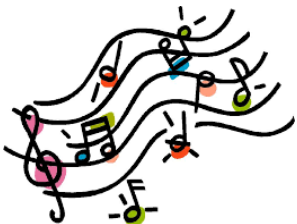
Tuesdays

Contract/Party Bridge, 1:30–4:00PM. This is for those who want to spend a couple of hours together playing a little less competitive form of bridge than duplicate bridge. Play is more social than competitive. Please contact us beforehand if you want to play. We’d like to form groups in tables of four and would hate to have you come without having enough to complete a table. Those who have played bridge before or who have attended two or three sessions of our beginner group on Thursdays are welcome to join us.



Wednesdays

Music groups. See Music Groups section above for schedule.



Thursdays

Music groups (select). Based on availability, some of our music groups can be moved to Thursday mornings, depending on member availability.

Beginner Contract Bridge Classes, 1:30PM. This is an ongoing class and we have openings for those wanting to learn the basics of contract bridge. This class is for those who may or may not have card-playing experience but have not played bridge before or have been away from the table for a very long time. Please contact us if you're interested so we can set up the correct number of tables.



Fridays

Currently open.

Saturdays

Penny-Ante Poker, 1–4PM. If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the one. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Feel free to come late or leave early. Please get on our WhatsApp list to ensure you're included for the "big" game.



UNITS FOR RENT

We currently have two units available for rent. Minimum lease is six months, non-smokers only.

Heliconia Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,000-square-foot apartment, located on the fourth (top) floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,000/month, all utilities included.



Buganvilla Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,200-square-foot apartment, located on the third floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. This fully-furnished apartment, in addition to the usual amenities, also has a bathtub. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,100/month, all utilities included.



UNIT FOR SALE

Loro House

Fully furnished, two bedrooms and one bath in 1,150 square feet of living space, and 50-mile views of the Nicoya Gulf and Peninsula and the Pacific Ocean. Large master suite has queen bed. Bath and kitchen have granite countertops and island. Bathroom has large walk-in rain-head shower. \$159,000.



